

Medicare Drug Discount Card Wrap-Around Benefit

As you may know, the federal government recently passed the Medicare Modernization Act. Because of the new law, a discount card is available to all Medicare beneficiaries as an interim benefit prior to the full program beginning in 2006. We passed legislation this year that makes the new card a wrap-around benefit with ConnPACE. Now, the federal and state programs work hand-in-hand.

For instance, when individuals use up their \$1200 federal subsidy, ConnPACE kicks in and picks up any additional costs, ensuring that nobody will ever pay more than the standard \$16.25 co-pay.



State Senator

Len Fasano

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State Senator

Len Fasano

Dear Neighbor,

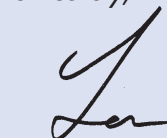
Serving as your state senator the past two years has been both an honor and a privilege. I have had the chance to speak to many wonderful people throughout North Haven, East Haven, and Wallingford on a host of critical issues.

In addition, I am proud of much of the bi-partisan legislation that the General Assembly was able to enact during the recently concluded 2004 legislative session. We made our air cleaner, assisted seniors with their prescription drug costs, and helped keep Connecticut families safe from the potential dangers of overhead power lines.

Constituent service remains the most rewarding part of my job as state senator. I hold regular office hours so you can meet with me face to face to discuss both state and local issues. Maintaining an open line of communication will help me better serve your needs at the State Capitol.

For even more updates on the events at the State Capitol you can visit my State Senate website at www.senatoreps.state.ct.us. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call my office toll-free at (800) 842-1421, e-mail me at Len.Fasano@po.state.ct.us or visit me during my office hours.

Sincerely,



Len Fasano



Transmission Lines

After an extended struggle, I was proud to work for the passage of legislation that requires Northeast Utilities and United Illuminating to bury any high voltage power lines located near residential areas, private and public schools, licensed day centers, youth camps, and public playgrounds.

Nearly every constituent I spoke to in Wallingford regarding the proposed Norwalk-to-Middletown power line project expressed concern over the possible negative health consequences brought on by the power lines' Electro Magnetic Fields (EMF). A variety of studies have confirmed the fear that EMFs may cause a serious threat to public health.

That's why I am pleased that this legislation requires NU and UI to provide, both to the Connecticut Siting Council and to Connecticut residents, an impact assessment of EMFs with every application.

I am proud to have led the fight to help keep these intrusive and unsafe power lines out of our communities. While I recognize the need for reliable electricity, the health of Wallingford citizens remains my top priority.

ConnPACE

The ConnPACE program has helped Connecticut's senior citizens and those with disabilities with their prescription drug costs for over twenty years. This year we made an important adjustment to current law to assist those enrolled in ConnPACE. We repealed the "reach-back" provision that would have allowed the state to make claims on the estates of certain ConnPACE recipients. State residents should not have to worry about losing their estate in order to keep receiving discounts on their prescription drugs.

Regional Probate Court for Children's Matters

We also established a pilot regional probate court that deals exclusively with children's issues. It includes the districts of East Haven, North Haven, New Haven, Hamden, West Haven, Woodbridge, Branford, Milford, North



Branford, and Orange and will act on all matters dealing with guardianship, termination of parental rights, adoption, paternity, emancipation and voluntary commitment of mentally ill children to the state Department of Children and Families.



Senator Fasano with his family at the Capitol

Clean Cars

We took an important step this year to help protect Connecticut's air by adopting legislation that requires the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to implement California's Low Emission standards for cars and small trucks, the strictest in the nation, by 2008. In addition, manufacturers must ensure that 10% of their new fleet be comprised of zero emission vehicles. Connecticut now joins several other states in the Northeast that have passed these regulations in an effort to keep our air clean for generations to come.

Important Changes to Zoning Regulations

As Ranking Member of the General Assembly's Planning and Development Committee, I was proud to have helped lead the passage of legislation that modifies the effect of the Connecticut Appellate Court decision in Poirier v Zoning Board of Appeals of the Town of Wilton. Property owners have the right to make changes to their property in accordance with the zoning laws that existed when their subdivisions were approved until the first building permit is issued, but must adhere to existing local zoning laws if they wish to make further changes to their property. The new law does not change the definition of any subdivision that was in existence prior to the "Poirier" case.